INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

'-----ntional Application No /GB2004/003846

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER IPC 7 F15D1/12 F16L F16L1/12 E02D5/60 B63B39/00 B63B21/66 B63B21/50 E21B17/01 According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC **B. FIELDS SEARCHED** Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols) F15D F16L E02D B63B E21B Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used) EPO-Internal, WPI Data, PAJ C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages Relevant to daim No. X US 6 401 646 B1 (EDFELDT MICHAEL P ET AL) 1 - 1111 June 2002 (2002-06-11) column 4, line 25 - line 28 column 5, line 16 - line 23 column 5, line 40 - line 53 figures 3,4,6 X GB 2 378 969 A (BALMORAL GROUP) 7 26 February 2003 (2003-02-26) cited in the application page 2, paragraph 5 - page 3, paragraph 1
page 5, paragraph 3; figure 1 Α 1,2,5,6 P,X US 6 695 540 B1 (TAQUINO WELDON) 1 - 1124 February 2004 (2004-02-24) column 5, line 18 - line 21; figures 1,3-5 -/--Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C. Patent family members are listed in annex. Special categories of cited documents: "T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the *A* document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance invention "E" earlier document but published on or after the International "X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone filing date "L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified) Y document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the cat "O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means document published prior to the International filing date but later than the priority date claimed "&" document member of the same patent family Date of the actual completion of the international search Date of mailing of the international search report 30 November 2004 07/12/2004 Name and mailing address of the ISA Authorized officer European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2 NL - 2280 HV Rijswijk Tel (+31-70) 340-2040, Tx. 31 651 epo nl, Fax: (+31-70) 340-3016 SLEIGHTHOLME, G

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